CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of manufacturing a decorative flower pot having an outer peripheral surface with embossed decorations, comprising the steps of:

forming a female mold cavity of a flower pot, the mold cavity having walls and contours disposed on said walls, said contours corresponding to a desired embossed design; and

vacuum forming a plastic flower pot in the mold, the flower pot having embossed decorations on the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot.

2. A decorative flower pot produced according to the method of claim 1.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of clamping a plastic sheet in a frame and heating said plastic sheet.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of placing said plastic sheet and frame over said female mold cavity while said sheet is in an elastic state.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of imprinting a design on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot using a rotational offset printing process.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the vacuum forming step further comprises the step of removing air from said mold cavity by applying a vacuum in order to force the heated plastic sheet against the walls and contours of said mold cavity, thereby forming a plastic flower pot having an embossed design on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

forming an embossed wrapper having an inner surface and a decorative outer surface, the embossed design on said wrapper being substantially identical to the embossed decorations on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot so that said wrapper engages the embossed design on said flower pot when wrapped around said flower pot; and

bonding the inner surface of said wrapper to at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot;

whereby said flower pot has a decorative design embossed on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot undistorted by the vacuum forming process.

8. A decorative flower pot produced according to the method of claim 7.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of vacuum forming a plastic flower pot having a plurality of sides and contours.

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10. A method of providing a flower pot with a decorative exterior, comprising the steps of:

vacuum forming a plastic flower pot having an outer peripheral surface;

forming a wrapper having an inner surface and a decorative outer surface; and

bonding the inner surface of said wrapper to at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot;

whereby a decorative flower pot is formed, said flower pot having a decorative design disposed on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot, the design being undistorted by the vacuum forming process.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of vacuum forming includes forming an embossed design on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of embossing a design on at least a portion of the outer surface of said wrapper.

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13. The method of claim 10, further comprising wherein the step of vacuum includes forming a plurality of sides and contours in the flower pot.

14. A decorative flower pot produced according to the method of claim 10.

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15. A method of forming a flower pot having an undistorted image disposed on the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot, comprising the steps of:

providing a plastic sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface;

forming a compressed image on at least a portion of the lower surface of said plastic sheet, the image being a visually distorted representation of a desired pattern;

clamping said plastic sheet in a frame;

heating said plastic sheet;

placing said plastic sheet and frame over said female mold cavity while said sheet is in an elastic state; and

removing the air from said mold cavity by a vacuum process, forcing the heated plastic sheet against the walls and contours of said mold cavity;

whereby a plastic flower pot is formed having an undistorted image of a desired pattern on the outer peripheral surface of said flower pot.

16. A decorative flower pot produced according to the method of claim 15.

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17. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of forming a compressed image on at least a portion of the lower surface of said plastic sheet further comprises the step of compensating for the distortion undergone by said plastic sheet when stretched by said vacuum process.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

imprinting a grid on a plastic template sheet, said grid having a multitude of identifiable sections; and

vacuum forming a flower pot template using said grid imprinted template sheet, said grid being distorted by said vacuum forming.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

overlaying said template over a flower pot having a desired pattern disposed thereon;

determining each grid section color imprinted on said template; and

transposing the color of each distorted grid section on said template to a second and subsequent plastic sheet;

whereby a compressed image on at least a portion of a lower surface of said second plastic sheet is formed.

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